

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A Client machine which is connected through a communication line with a service providing server machine to thereby subscribe for a service system provided by said server machine in order to be provided with a service according to said service system,

said server machine being adapted to provide a regular service and also a tentative service prior to the provision of said regular service, said client machine comprising:

a tentative service utilization section for utilizing a tentative service provided by said server machine;

a point value display section for displaying a point value sequentially changing as a time available in a regular service passes by when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing a tentative service; and

a regular service utilization procedure section for taking procedure steps for utilizing a regular service provided by said server machine.

2. The client machine according to claim 1, wherein said point value display section displays a point value sequentially increasing as time passes by when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing said tentative service.

3. The client machine according to claim 1, wherein said point value display section displays a point value sequentially decreasing as time passes by when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing said tentative service.

4. The client machine according to claim 1, further

comprising a point value updating section for sequentially updating a point value displayed at said point value display section when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing said tentative service.

5. The client machine according to claim 1, wherein said point value display section is adapted to receive and display a sequentially updated point value transmitted from said server machine when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing said tentative service.

6. The client machine according to claim 1, comprising a regular service utilization section for continuing utilization of a regular service provided by said server machine after procedure steps are taken at said regular service utilization procedure section.

7. A server machine connected through a communication line with a client machine which is provided with a service by said server machine after said client machine subscribed for a service system provided by said server machine,

said server machine providing a regular service and also a tentative service prior to the provision of said regular service, comprising:

a tentative service providing section for providing the tentative service to the client machine prior to the provision of the regular service;

a regular service utilization procedure accepting section for accepting a procedure for utilization of the regular service that is made by the client machine provided with the tentative

service by said tentative service providing section; and

a regular service providing section for providing the regular service to the client machine said procedure of which was accepted,

wherein said regular service providing section is adapted to provide a service corresponding to a point value that corresponds to the tentative service provided by said tentative service providing section for a time lapse up to a moment when the procedure made by the client machine was accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section.

8. The server machine according to claim 7, wherein said regular service providing section is adapted to continuously provide the regular service to the client machine whose procedure was accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section.

9. The server machine according to claim 8, wherein said regular service providing section is adapted to continuously provide the regular service to the client machine whose procedure was accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section and give a point value for providing an additive service corresponding to an utilization situation of the regular service and also give as an initial value the point value that corresponds to the tentative service provided by said tentative service providing section for a time lapse up to a moment when the procedure made by the client machine was accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section.

10. The server machine according to claim 7, wherein:

said client machine is adapted to sequentially update the point value as time passes by when utilizing the tentative service provided by said tentative service providing section;

said regular service utilization procedure accepting section is adapted to accept a procedure for utilizing the regular service that is made by the client machine provided with the tentative service by said tentative service providing section and also accept the point value updated by said client machine at a moment when said procedure was accepted; and

said regular service providing section is adapted to provide the service corresponding to the point value accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section to the client machine whose procedure was accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section.

11. The server machine according to claim 7, comprising a point value updating section for sequentially updating the point value for the client machine as time passes by when said tentative service providing section is providing said client machine with the tentative service, wherein

said regular service providing section is adapted to provide the service corresponding to the point value for said client machine that is updated by said point value updating section at a moment when said procedure was accepted.

12. The server machine according to claim 7, wherein said point value updating section is adapted to sequentially increase the point value for the client machine as time passes by when said tentative service providing section is providing said client

machine with the tentative service.

13. The server machine according to claim 7, wherein said point value updating section is adapted to sequentially decrease the point value for the client machine as time passes by when said tentative service providing section is providing said client machine with the tentative service.

14. A client program storage medium recording a client program which, when executed in a computer connected through a communication line with a server machine providing a service, permits said computer to subscribe for a service system provided by said server machine so as to operate as a client machine which is provided with the service according to said service system,

said server machine being adapted to provide a regular service and also a tentative service prior to the provision of the regular service, wherein

said computer is specifically permitted to operate as the client machine comprising:

a tentative service utilization section for utilizing the tentative service provided by said server machine;

a point value display section for displaying a point value sequentially changing as a time available in the regular service passes by when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing the tentative service; and

a regular service utilization procedure section for taking a procedure for utilizing the regular service provided by said server machine.

15. The client program storage medium according to claim

14, wherein said point value display section is adapted to display the point value sequentially increasing as time passes by when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing the tentative service.

16. The client program storage medium according to claim 14, wherein said point value display section is adapted to display the point value sequentially decreasing as time passes by when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing the tentative service.

17. The client program storage medium according to claim 14, said client program permits said computer to operate as the client machine further comprising a point value updating section for sequentially updating a point value displayed at said point value display section when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing the tentative service.

18. The client program storage medium according to claim 14, wherein said point value display section is adapted to receive and display a sequentially updated point value transmitted from said server machine when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing the tentative service.

19. The client program storage medium according to claim 14, said client program permits said computer to operate as the client machine further comprising a regular service utilization section for continuing the utilization of the regular service provided by said server machine after said regular service utilization procedure section accepted the procedure .

20. A server program storage medium recording a server

program which, when executed in a computer connected through a communication line with a client machine provided with a service, permits said computer to provide the service to the client machine after said client machine subscribed for a service system provided thereby,

said server program being adapted to provide a regular service and also a tentative service prior to the provision of the regular service, wherein

said computer is

specifically permitted to operate as the server machine comprising:

a tentative service providing section for providing the tentative service to said client machine prior to the provision of the regular service;

a regular service utilization procedure accepting section for accepting such a procedure for utilizing the regular service that is made by said client machine provided with the tentative service by said tentative service providing section; and

a regular service providing section for providing the regular service to the client machine whose procedure was accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section,

wherein said regular service providing section provides the service according to a point value corresponding to the tentative service provided by said tentative service providing section for a time lapse up to a moment when the procedure made by said client machine was accepted by said regular service

utilization accepting section.

21. The server program storage medium according to claim 20, wherein said regular service providing section is adapted to continuously provide the regular service to the client machine whose procedure was accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section.

22. The server program storage medium according to claim 21, wherein said service providing section is adapted to continuously provide the regular service to the client machine whose procedure was accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section and give a point value for providing an additive service corresponding to a utilization situation of the regular service and also give as an initial value the point value that corresponds to the tentative service provided by said tentative service providing section for a time lapse up to a moment when the procedure made by the client machine was accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section.

23. The server program storage medium according to claim 20, wherein:

said client machine is adapted to sequentially update the point value as time passes by when utilizing the tentative service provided by said tentative service providing section;

said regular service utilization procedure accepting section is adapted to accept a procedure for utilizing the regular service that is made by the client machine provided with the tentative service by said tentative service providing section



and also accept the point value updated by said client machine at a moment when said procedure was accepted; and

said regular service providing section is adapted to provide the service corresponding to the point value accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section to the client machine whose procedure was accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section.

24. The server program storage medium according to claim 20, comprising a point value updating section for sequentially updating the point value for the client machine as time passes by when said tentative service providing section is providing said client machine with the tentative service, wherein

said regular service providing section is adapted to provide the service corresponding to the point value for said client machine that is updated by said point value updating section at a moment when said procedure was accepted.

25. The server program storage medium according to claim 20, wherein said point value updating section is adapted to sequentially increase the point value for the client machine as time passes by when said tentative service providing section is providing said client machine with the tentative service.

26. The server program storage medium according to claim 20, wherein said point value updating section is adapted to sequentially decrease the point value for the client machine as time passes by when said tentative service providing section is providing said client machine with the tentative service.

27. A service providing method for permitting a server

machine to provide services to a user machine,

said services consisting of a regular service provided to the user machine utilized by a subscribed user and a tentative service provided to the user machine utilized by a non-subscribed user prior to the provision of the regular service, said method comprising the steps of:

providing the tentative service to the user machine prior to the provision of the regular service;

storing a tentative service utilization time lapse of said user machine;

accepting a procedure for utilizing the regular service that is made by the user machine provided with the tentative service;

calculating a point value corresponding to said tentative service utilization time lapse up to a moment when said regular service utilization procedure was accepted; and

providing the regular service to the user machine whose regular service utilization procedure was accepted and also providing the service corresponding to said calculated point value to the user whose utilization procedure was accepted.

28. The service providing method according to claim 27, wherein information about said tentative service utilization time lapse is displayed at said user machine.

29. The service providing method according to claim 28 or 29, wherein said calculated point value is displayed at the user machine provided with the tentative service when said user

machine is being provided with the tentative service.

30. The service providing method according to claim 27, wherein said point value is increased as said tentative service utilization time lapse increases.

31. The service providing method according to claim 27, wherein said point value is decreased as said tentative service utilization time lapse increases.

32. A service system comprising a server machine which is connected through communication line with a service receiving client machine to thereby provide a service to said client machine after said client machine subscribed for said service system, wherein:

said server machine provide

a regular service and also a tentative service prior to the provision of the regular service, comprising:

a tentative service providing section for providing the tentative service to the client machine prior to the provision of the regular service;

a regular service utilization procedure accepting section for accepting a procedure for utilization of the regular service that is made by the client machine provided with the tentative service by said tentative service providing section; and

a regular service providing section for providing the regular service to the client machine said procedure of which was accepted, said regular service providing section being adapted to provide a service corresponding to a point value that corresponds to the tentative service provided by said tentative

service providing section for a time lapse up to a moment when the procedure made by the client machine was accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section; and

said client machine comprises:

a tentative service utilization section for utilizing the tentative service provided by said server machine;

a point value display section for displaying a point value sequentially changing as a time lapse available in the regular service passes by when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing the tentative service; and

a regular service utilization procedure section for taking procedure steps for utilizing the regular service provided by said server machine.

33. The service system according to claim 32, wherein said point value display section displays the point value sequentially increasing as time passes by when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing the tentative service.

34. The service system according to claim 32, wherein said point value display section displays the point value sequentially decreasing as time passes by when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing the tentative service.

35. The service system according to claim 32, wherein said client machine comprises a point value updating section for sequentially updating the point value displayed at said point value display section when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing the tentative service.